The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

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From The Editor...

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2011, Another year has begun and its going to be interesting to say the least.

I look forward to meeting all you fine folks at the various meeting and events the RCT puts on over the year.

Some of the highlights are:
Straight Key night. This one has already come and gone. Thanks go out to the "Little Achievers'" for their efforts in putting on the event. The "Little Achievers also put on the annual "Freeze Yer Buns Off" also known as the "FYBO" every February on the first week-end.

Then, the "Jim Kirkreit Memorial" picnic, formerly known as the "DK at the Beach" This occurs in Mid June and is now held at the Spanaway Park.

Next, also in June is Field Day! Need I say more?

After Field Day comes the RCT Hamfest in early August. This is a major event and a great fundraiser for the club.

Another great operating event and fund raiser is our newest addition to the annual events, the Washington State Salmon run in September.

These last two are major fundraisers for the club and we all benefit from them. Then there's the usual events like the annual awards banquet in December and the every Saturday open house at the RCT clubhouse. We as club members should participate in as many of these events as possible. They bring life to the club and enjoyment to our lives!

So lets get out there and join in!

But… On a sadder note, we have lost another brother from the club. Rob Stewart WB7QCS has passed away very suddenly. There is an announcement in this issue about that and it's a somber reminder that we could go at any minute. One small accident is sometimes all it takes.

So, let's be careful out there, OK? Remember if you go too soon, we'll all just fight over your stuff, so don't go until it's all broken…

73 Gary WG7X

News and Views from "The Prez"

Yeah, that's right… Another page of blather from the person that you all (Y'All for South Tacoma's finest..) elected to be the fearless leader for the next two years.

A daunting task to be sure but one that I'm looking forward to.

I wish that I could say the same for some of the other club officers. We seem to be lacking a few at present, starting with our former Vice Prez, Rick Rose.

Rick has done and exemplary job with all the duties of VP and membership chairman. Due to job requirements he has had to give up the position. Of course, he will still be a member of the RCT and he will leave some might big shoes to fill.

Our former Secretary Ken Gibson has also had to leave due to a new job. As many already know, Ken is now the head cheese over at the same place where we have had our annual awards dinner. So, Ken, I expect that the RCT will be back at the TACID center for many years to come.

Although, the next one should be held as a lunch, not a dinner. I've had many requests already to change the time and for what it is worth, I agree. So lets see if we can hold an awards luncheon this year. How does 1300 local sound?

And now for something completely different…

This week-end the ARRL RTTY round up was held. The bands were full of folks trying their hand at RTTY. For many, it was the first time on the green keys and I had contact with a few club members too! For me it is always fun to get involved in something (like RTTY) and have a good time while doing it. For the record, I managed to contact someone in every state (except Wyoming) in a single week end, and most, if not all, of those contest contacts have already been confirmed via the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LOTW).

I find it fascinating that the aficionados of one of the radios worlds oldest modes, are also the same people who embrace wholeheartedly something as new and different as the LOTW. This is all by way of saying that we should do the traditional stuff and the new stuff all at the same time. As long as there's a radio involved somewhere its FB by me!

One last thing: We do need a Vice president and secretary, as soon as possible, so if anyone out there either wants the job(s) or knows of someone who would be suitable, available and able.

Please let me know!

73 for now

Gary WG7X
RCT Prez.

General Meeting
December 22 2010 MINUTES

The 22 December 2010 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . Vice President Rick Rose – KE7EMW called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President: Rick Rose – KE7EMW
Treasurer:Joe Lester K7AWJ
A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 27 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by Vice President Rick -- KE7EMW

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed. Tom, -- KF7NGH and his XYL were first time visitors and were warmly welcomed and encouraged to participate in the many club activities.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: Recent Silent Keys Tressie Hughes KC7BAL on 4 December, and Rob Stewart WB7QCS on 11 December were announced.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick Rose KE7EMW reports the current club membership count stands at 320 plus several to be processed.

VE Report: John Clarke – AC7WW provided the following VE report.

Tuesday evening, December 14th testing session at the clubhouse of the Radio Club of Tacoma eight VE's graded twenty one elements from eleven candidates. Element two had seven passed and two failed, element three saw three passed and six failed and element four had two pass and one fail.

New license class earned was six Technicians, one General and two Extra. Two candidates failed to upgrade or obtain a license.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Joe, W7RQ Jan, K7HTU
Jon, AD7AW
Jim, N7RHX Joe, K7AWJ
Stephen, AD7AB
Don, K7QLC

The next scheduled testing session will be Tuesday, January 11, 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Straight Key Night: Rich Patrick – KR7W announced the upcoming Straight Key Night which will be on December 31st, New Year's Eve at the clubhouse. Besides key pounding and best key judging contest, there will be a social/potluck from 4 pm to around 6 pm. You don't have to be a CW operator to enjoy the evening. Several vintage radios are planned to be in service, and W7OS is planning to run two CW stations on 80 and 40 meters, You may recognize them by their "Chirp"…

Open House: Larry Watson KD4VOM reminded the group that there will be no Open House this weekend, its Christmas.

PROGRAM: Tonight's program was a video on the 2006 ARDF presented by Stephen Morton – AD7AV

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Show and Tell: --

Bill -- AC7QI who was the winner of the annual end of year raffle cash, used it and some of his own to purchase a "Rig Blaster Pro Bill described the basics and passed the unit around for all to see. We may see a full program from Bill on the Rig Blaster Plus at a future meeting.

Charles – KD7UAN Brought a 1.2 GHZ device he intends to use at the 4x4 rallies he participates in. It seems the loudspeaker announcements which include alerting those runners who are coming up next, cannot be heard in the campground area. Charles' is constructing an RF repeater to transmit the announcements to the campground where they will be rebroadcast for the participants.

Rich – KR7W, brought along a vintage ~ 1975 Vibroplex Bug (Their logo is a lightning bug), along with a Heathkit code oscillator. The Bug was popular in the days when CW was a mandatory requirement for Ham licensees. The last train station Morse operations ended in 1996, and the last ship to shore code operations went silent around 1999. W7OS works hard to keep CW a working operation with the Radio Club of Tacoma.

TUNING AND TRAFFIC:

Club Nets: Club members were encouraged to participate in the Sunday night 10 meter net on 28374 at 8 pm ran by Lynn – WR7G, and the Tuesday night 2 meter net which runs on 147.28 at 7:30 pm

DOOR PRIZE: Al – AC7BU picked up the Door Prize; Listening to Shortwave Book.

RAFFLE PRIZE: Our visitor and new ham Tom -- KF7NGH won the Radio Shack 2 meter rig with manual…

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

A Jot from Jill

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Officers, Board and the entire membership for the support you have given to me as your president for the past 2 years and 4 months! I wasn't able to accomplish all the goals that I wanted to but I did try to lead the club in the best way I could.
Many members considered me to be the "Mother" of the club and I'll have to say it was a lot of fun running the meetings with a gavel in my hand but lots of love in my heart. Thank you so much for your support in every way. I count it an honor.
I am looking forward to Gary McAdams, WG7X picking up where I left off. I know he is going to do a great job. Please don't hesitate to call or email me even though I don't have the president title anymore. I'd be happy to hear from you.

73,
Jill K7Jil

Good Bye Rob! We'll miss you!

WB7QCS ...-.-

The Memorial for Robert G Stewart will be held on Sunday, 16 January 2011 from 2pm to 3:30pm at Mountain View Funeral Home in the "Willow Room" Lakewood, WA. located across from the Clover Park Vo - Tech at 4100 Steilacoom Blvd. Follow the signs to the Willow Room. All hams are invited.

There will also be cookies, cake, coffee provided. Bring your memories of Rob Stewart to share.

Tnx, and 73,

Harry Wong N7DOE

Dear W7DK members,

As indicated in a recent 2010 club program, the club library represents a unique resource for all of us. Its holdings cover the history of the club and of amateur radio (often synonymous with radio generally over the last century). The library also provides the membership with up-to-date technical information. It is vitally important, therefore, that books upstairs in the reference library remain there for everyone's use. The circulating library on the first floor provides some basic resources for check-out on an honors basis (books signed out and back in within three weeks).

Recently, an important, historic book has gone missing from the upstairs library. The book was labeled with Dewey call letters and stamped as belonging to W7DK. The book:

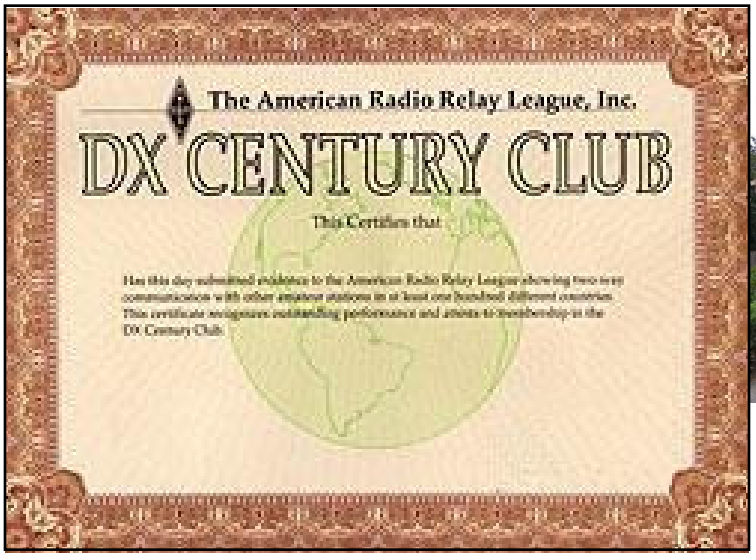
621.384 R66r: Robison, S. S.; Todd, D. W.; Hooper, S. C., Robison's Manual of Radio Telegraphy and Telephony for the Use of Naval Electricians, 5th edition Annapolis, MD: The United States Naval Institute, 1919.

If you have seen this book, or know its whereabouts, would you please contact me at oakmande@plu.edu.

Again, the library exists for the benefit of all members, and the rules agreed upon by the Library Committee and the Board are that upstairs materials remain in the clubhouse.

Thank you.

Douglas E. Oakman AD7AV
Head Librarian

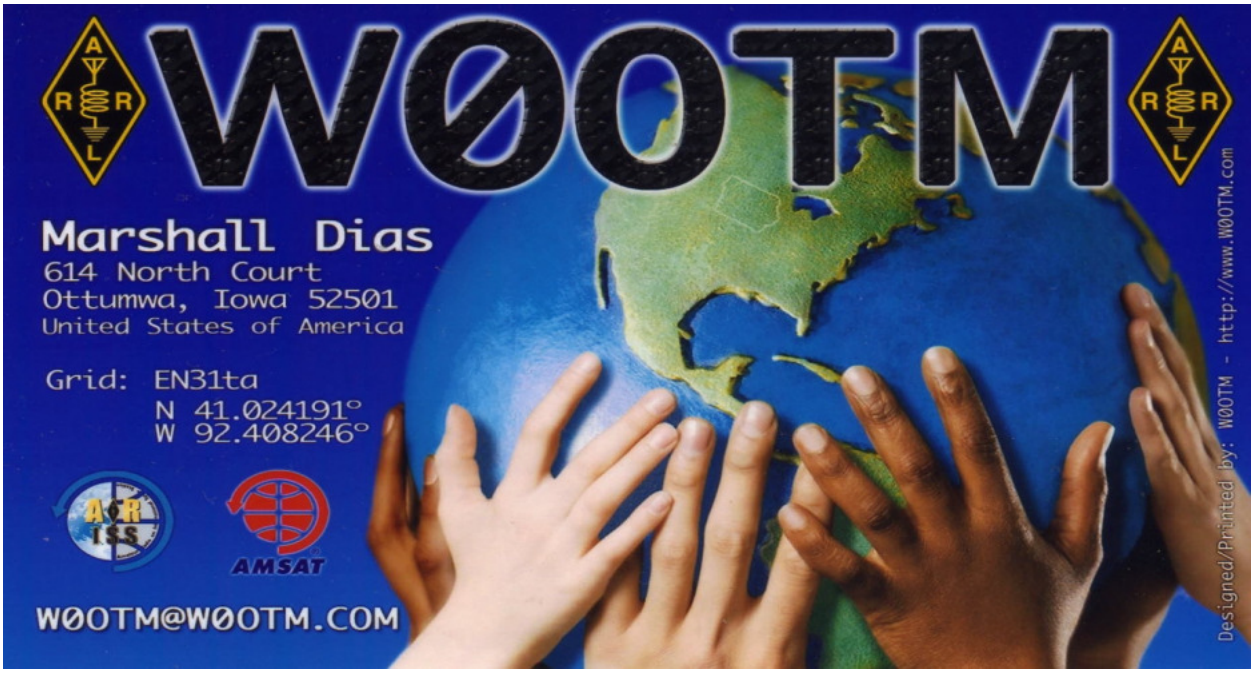


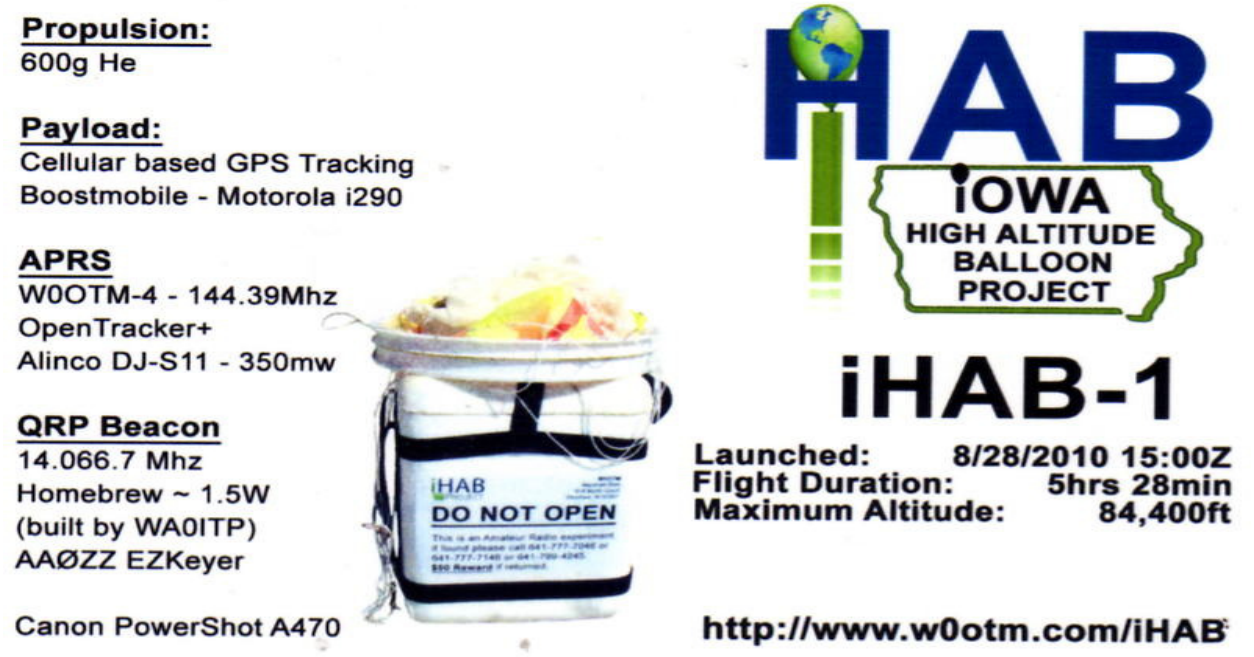
RCT ANNOUNCES!!!

TUBE SALE

WE HAVE ANOTHER "LOT" OF TUBES FOR SALE
THERE ARE 17 BOXES OF INDIVIDUAL TUBES THAT ARE LISTED SEPARATELY. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE 2 BOXES OF MINI 9 PIN (SEVERAL HUNDRED) AND 1 BOX OF MINI 7 PIN.
A LIST OF THE CONTENT OF THE 17 BOXES WILL BE AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY ON OUR WEBSITE
www.w7dk.org
ALSO, THE LIST WILL BE AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY AND ON PAPER AT THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA CLUB-HOUSE.
YOU CAN MAIL YOUR "SEALED BID" IN AN ENVELOPE TO:
RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA "TUBES"
PO BOX 11188
TACOMA, WA 98411-0188
OR
HAND CARRY TO ANY MEMBER OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT TEAM
THE AUCTION WILL RUN TILL NOON OF FEBRUARY 5TH 2011
MAIL IN BIDS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 31ST 2011
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE SALE TO ANYONE. LOWBALL OFFERS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

QSL Card of the Month… Submitted by: Bob, K7MXE





Bob reports that he was able to hear the 20 meter beacon on 8/28/2010 from the IHAB-1 balloon at his home QTH. The Flight Duration was 5 hours 28 minutes and the Maximum Altitude was 84,400ft. More interesting info can be found at: http://www.ihabproject.com/iHAB-1/index.html A second iHAB balloon was launched on Oct 2. Info can be found at: http://www.ihabproject.com/iHAB-2/ Check out the spectacular photos!

Bob filed his signal report and received this nice QSL card. Compiled by Rich KR7W

Dateline: January 2011

Sparky's "View from the Shack"

This and that around the club, and more…

Sparky's *welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.*

- *Mystery photo*
- *Around the Club*
- *ARRL and such*
- *Attaboys*
- *"A Thousand Marbles"*
- *View from the Shack*

Mystery Photo

Last month's mystery photo is a key part of the Radio Club of Tacoma History.

It is the original Radio Club of Tacoma's Clubhouse. Purchased in the 1920's and sold in part due to the great depression. We're strapped for space today, think what it would be like to still be in the Oakes street clubhouse, Ouch!

Around the Club...

Straight Key Night

Kudos to Rich Patrick KR7W and his team who made Straight Key night another enjoyable club activity. Despite frigid temperatures, a large crowd showed up to ogle the gear Rich and his crew had set up, and of course to sample the more than ample potluck feed. Thanks too to those who pounded brass and eked the best out of some of our vintage gear.

The upgrade and improvements at the Clubhouse continue as does attendance at the Saturday Open Houses… Drop in have a donut, coffee and enjoy the conversations...

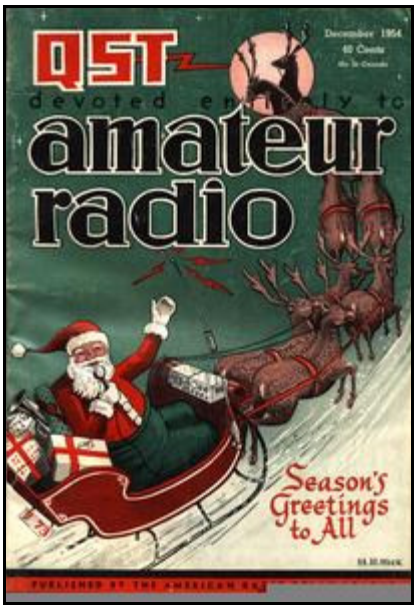
ARRL...

CONVERSATION

Endpieces Interwoven

It's customary to gallivant through the fields and valleys of holiday homily in a year-ending editorial, but I'll moderate the trustful entreaties with a little fun, sprinkling busticated brumal bromides betwixt verses of "Code For the Holidays", another of the seemingly inexhaustible

Dr. Beldar's transmogrifications.



This one is for my mom, it being **based on one of her favorites, the 1954 Perry Como hit "Home For the Holidays" when I was just a muffin in the oven..**

Oh, there's no mode like code for the holidays,
'Cause no matter how QRS you go,
When you pine for the rhythm of a friendly fist
For the holidays, you can't beat old Morse code.

I worked a gal who lives in Tennessee,
She was callin' for
Pennsylvania, so we ragchewed for a while.
From Pennsylvania, hams are beamin'
South to work those W4's,
From Atlantic to Pacific,
Gee, the QRM's terrific.

Even if the QRM is terrific, take an extra ten-count before firing off that email or pressing the microphone button. Be not a provoker or too easily provoked. Caution takes but an instant, while regret can last a lifetime.

Oh, there's no mode like code for the holidays,
'Cause no matter how QRS you go,
When you pine for the rhythm of a friendly fist
For the holidays, you can't beat old Morse code.

With your keyer solid-state
Or that brass J-38
Even mobile while you're driving in the car
For the pleasure that you bring
When you make those earphones ring
No contact is too far

Rarely is the hyperbole so easily ladled out as tasty to eat as it smells during the cooking. Benefit of the doubt is often oil upon the waters and something we are all deserve at times. Be free with understanding and miserly with invective.

I worked a gal who lives in Tennessee,
She was callin' for
Pennsylvania, so we ragchewed for a while.
From Pennsylvania, hams are beamin'
South to work those W4's,
From Atlantic to Pacific,
Gee, the QRM's terrific.

And last, but not least, follow the old Native American advice of walking a mile in the other person's moccasins. Empathy is a marvelous thing, often wished for after the fact. When the sun comes up tomorrow, most of us are still going to be here on this earthly ball, whirling around our annual track, so we might as well make the effort to share the place a little better.

Oh, there's no mode like code for the holidays,
'Cause no matter how QRS you go,
When you pine for the rhythm of a friendly fist
For the holidays, you can't beat old Morse code.
For the holidays, you can't beat old Morse code.

Have a great holiday season and don't forget to have fun with the rest of your ham radio family!

73, Ward NØAX

Technical Web Site of the Week - The FCC recently released its most recent version of the "Spectrum Dashboard" which allows you to browse and zoom in on all allocated spectrum from 225 MHz to 3700 MHz with a graphical tool. (From the December issue of "Cheese Bits" Mt Airy "Packrats" VHF Radio Club) (ARRL Contest Newsletter, Dec 2010)

Solar Update

Tad "The windows are illuminated by the evening Sun" Cook, K7RA, reports: The average daily sunspot numbers for this week declined more than 7 points from the previous week to 27.6. The solar flux stayed about the same, up less than a point. The predicted planetary A index for the next five days -- December 16-20 -- is 8, 5, 8, 8 and 5. The solar flux for the same days is predicted at 87, 86, 84, 86 and 86. Flux values are expected to meander between 86 and 88 until the end of the month, when they are expected to hit 90 around December 29-January 1. Look for more information -- including information on *JHelioviewer*, a free visualization program for examining the millions of images from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory -- on the ARRL Web site on Friday, December 17. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young's *Our House*.

Attaboys:

2010 is in the history books. Sparky thought it appropriate to list most of the members who contributed to making it a good year for the Radio Club of Tacoma... Some, more than others, and this list is certainly flawed and unintentionally missed some folks, but you must admit, a lot of folks had a hand in a successful year.

Adams, Harry , W7HSA; --Baker, Peter, AD7EU; --Baldissari, Joe, W7RQ; --Ballard, CT, N7UH; --Blacksten, Steve, AD7VL; --Bond, Ollie, AD7CC; --Brassard, Ray, KE7BZD; --Buck, Chris, KE7LDE; --Burleson, Al, K7HW; --Burris, Garry, KE7WPH; --Burstiner, Leonard, KA7NWF; --Churchill, Al, AC7BU; --Clarke, John, AC7WW; --Clarke, Connie, XYL; --Culbertson, Jan, K7HTU; --Cunnyngham, Wil, KD7GEF; --David, Peter, KK7QW; --Duley, Robert, KF7HQH; --Elwell, Mike, W7GHW; --Ferguson, Al, N7OMS; --Freinwald, Clay, K7CR; --Galati, Glen, KA7BOJ; --Gibson, Ken, N7ELF; --Gilbertson, Jan, K7HTU; --Glidden, Gregg, KF7BAO; --Gurley, Worth, W7WG; --Hamilton, Jon, AD7AW; --Hanson, Bruce, WE7P; --Hatlestad, Don, K7OG; --Heasty, Richard, KK7VH; --Hegseth, Jack, K7DBU; --Heselberg, Bob, K7MXE; --Hewlitt, Bob, N7NCP; --Hewlitt, Greta, KF7KSW; --Hughes, Alan, KB7SVU; --Jensen, Chris, W7YX; --Kemmer, Chuck, AC7QN; --Kurtz, Maury, W7OT; --Kurtz, Maury, W7OT; --Lawrence, Jim, N7RHX; --Leatham, Jay, KD7DKY; --Lentz, Alan, W7AML; --Lester, Joe, K7ZG; --Lucas, Bill, KB7IHB; --Marsh, Franky, KF7FEF; --Marshal, Randy, WB4SBP; --McAdams, Gary , WG7X; --McFadden, Gary , K7UPG; --Mendenhall, Jim, KE6WHN; --Mikuchonis, Mike, W7XTZ; --Morrison,, Dale, AD7SQ; --Morton, Stephen, AD7AB; --Myers, Randy, WB7SBP ; --Neece, Lynn, WR7G; --Nelson, Si, KA7AQT; --Nelson, Stan, K7DKK; --Oakman, Doug, AD7AV; --Palmer, Jill, K7JIL; --Palmer, Frank, AC7JY; --Patrick, Rich, KR7W; --Perrussel, Bruce, WB7TVS; --Perry, Don, K7QLC; --Peterson, Scott, KA7IOX; --Purdom, Bob, AC7LJ; --Quamme, Crystal, K7XK; --Riley, David, KF7GBL; --Riley, Jim, KE7PVZ; --Robinson, Mike, AD7TH; --Robinson, Michael, AD7TH; --Roher, Bill, W7IJ; --Rose, Rick, KE7EMW; --Rose, Gilead, KE7IGV; --Sim, Dian, W7SIM; --Smith, Charles , KD7UAN; --Stewart, Robert, WB7QCS; --Terwilliger, Roger, WA7ANJ; --Terwilliger, Lucy, KF7QHL; --Terwilliger, Christina, KE7YVG; --Watson, Larry, KD4VOM; --Watson, Janice, XYL; --Wingerter, Pat, WT7N; --Winter, Nick, K7MO; --Wong, Harry , N7DOE; --Wright, Bill, AD7QI;

Thanks to you all, and those that somehow slipped through my fumbling fingers.

"3,900 Saturdays"
Excerpt from *Charging the Human Battery*
By Mac Anderson

"A Thousand Marbles…"

The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday morning. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable.

A few weeks ago, I was walking toward the garage with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time. Let me tell you about it:

I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band on my ham radio in order to listen to the Saturday morning swap. Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind; he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was telling whomever he was talking with something about "a thousand marbles." I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say.

"Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. It's too bad you missed your daughter's dance recital," he continued; "Let me tell you something that has helped me keep my own priorities." And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "thousand marbles."

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years.

Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3,900, which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime. Now, stick with me, Tom, I'm getting to the important part.

It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any

detail," he went on, "and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays. I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy. So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to round up 1,000 marbles. I took them home and put them inside a large, clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my gear.

Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away. I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life.

There's nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight.

Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure that if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time.

It was nice to meet you Tom. I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. This is a 75 year old man, K9NZQ, clear and going QRT, good morning!"

You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few radio hams to work on the next club newsletter.

Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast."

"What brought this on?" she asked with a smile.

"Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. And hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy some marbles."

View from the Shack…

Hope you all enjoyed the annual **Christmas dinner and Awards Banquet**…

Sparky

"All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism."

The Disclaimer…
These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.

SKN at W7OS…
All who came had a good time…
by Barkie Cub Reporter

Straight Key Night 2011 was held at the Clifford J Doc Spike W7OS Museum, on the second floor of the RCT Clubhouse, on Dec 31 starting at 4:00 PM (0000 hrs. 1/1/2011).

This year, two old rigs were set up for CW enthusiasts to make Morse Code contacts. The 80 meter station, located in the HF room, consisted of a Heathkit Apache transmitter operating at approx 60 watts out and a Hammarlund HQ120X receiver (circa 1938).

Chuck, AC7QN, operates the 80M station.

The second station, located in the Museum consisted of a Homebrew Breadboard transmitter with two 807s (design circa 1938) and a homebrew Regenerative receiver (design circa 1935 or so). The regen RCXR had techy difficulties so a Drake 2B was substituted.

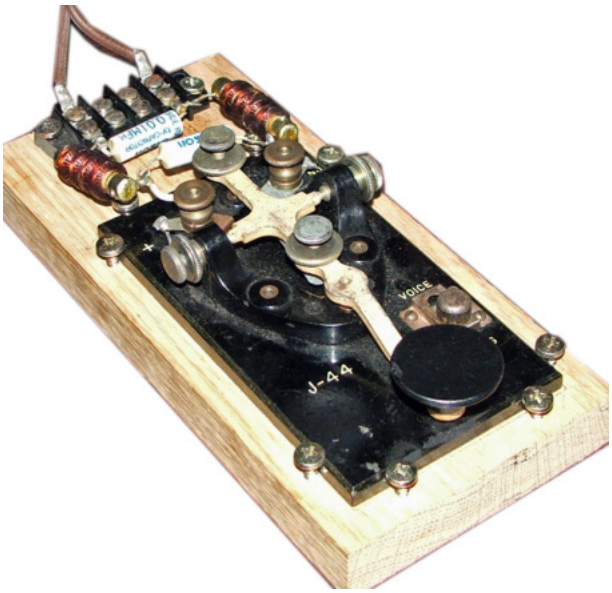
Dr. Doug, AD7AV, at the key of the 40M station.

Peter, AD7EU, brought his 1920's laptop to copy code at the 80M station.

Also, at the SKN 2011 event, a Key Judging Contest was held. Members and friends were encouraged to bring in their Straight Keys, Bugs, or Cootie Keys, to have a panel of 3 Morse Code enthusiasts judge the keys for best Morse Code sending feel and BLING. Only one of the original judges could make it… so Alan N7OMS rounded up some folks and sorted out the entries until the winners were determined.

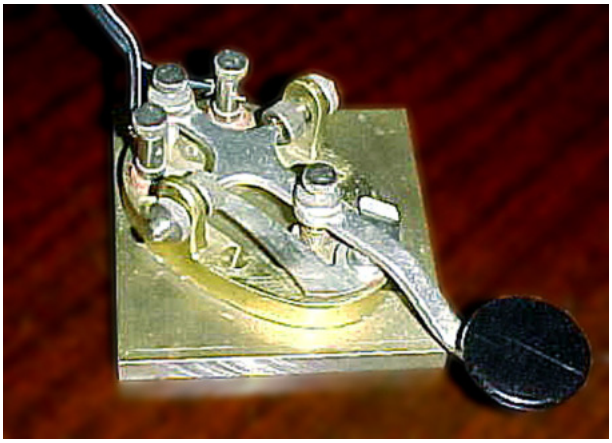
Most of the keys entered are shown on the judging table.

First place Straight Key was entered by Chuck AC7QN.



Chuck, AC7QN's First Place Straight Key. A WW2 J-44 with Key Click Filter components added.

Second Place Straight Key was entered by Bob K7MXE. This key was King Davis KE7ASO's key. King became a silent key a short while ago.

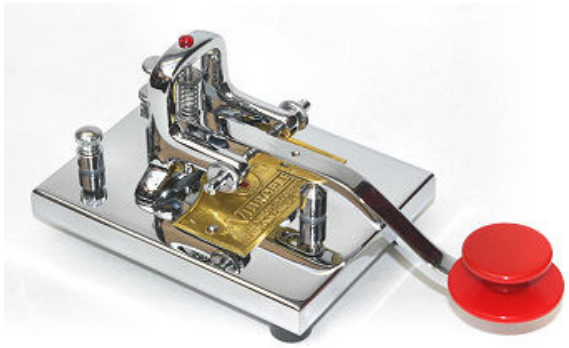


Bob, K7MXE, entered King Davis' KE7ASO's key. This one certainly has BLING... shiny brass on brass.

Third place Straight Key was entered by Harry W7HSA.

First Place Bug was entered by Rich KR7W, a dull 1941 Vibroplex racer.

Second Place Bug was entered by Don K7 **O**ld **G**oat, a shiny chrome Vibroplex bug.



This is not Harry's key, but it is just like it. More shiny chrome BLING!

Some vintage code practice oscillators were on hand to test the feel of the keys. Some folks were shocked on the old Bud Code Oscillator as it supplies 150 volts across the key contacts.

The highlight of the evening was the pot-luck dinner. Many Thanks to all who brought some Good Eats. (reporter's note: Those little sandwiches were especially tasty as well as the Flat Apple Pie).

Rich KR7W operates the 40M station. To the right, behind the lamp is the Regen Receiver. The transmitter is on the far left.

This year SKN operators made contact with OR, CA, WA, BC, and DX stations in TX and IN. Rich KR7W mentioned that the highlight of his SKN was making contact with the Maritime Radio Historical Society's station K6KPH located at Pt Reyes, CA. Doug, AD7AV, mentioned that he had a great time using the ca 1938 transmitter with the 866A rectifier tubes glowing blue in the power supply.

-30-

The 1938 SKN transmitter's power supply rectifier tubes glow an eerie - hard to describe blue - as the station operator keys the transmitter. Here we see 560 Volts at 120 mA on the meters. This equates to about 67 watts input power to get about 50 watts output power.

Far right shows Ev, 7DJ's station in Pt Angeles around 1923. Below shows Dottie's station in 1938. Looks like Dottie uses a Hallicrafters receiver. Does anyone know which model?

Murphy's Third Law

By Rich KR7W

Last month I was at my dentist's office in the waiting room and picked up that days Tribune. I read in the Horoscope column that I was about to have a FIVE STAR day. The dentist's work went well and I was pain free. Later on that day the low fuel light became illuminated in my cars dashboard. I stayed late at work, I was tired, and I thought to myself, "I am still having a FIVE STAR DAY. No frets, No worries. My five star day protected me that day… but the next day I didn't pay attention to the light until I was driving on my way home from work. "Yikes", I panicked and said to myself, " I think I am gonna run out of fuel". I went to the neighborhood gas station. Drat! Pumps are closed. I drove into the next gas station's driveway just as the cars engine began to sputter.

I was fortunate enough to have enough fumes in the tank to make it… but I was also COMPLACENT by taking the free ride on my FIVE STAR day and not paying attention to the fuel gauge the next day. If I had run out of fuel before I arrived at the gas station I could have easily blamed it on **Murphy's Law**. Yah, it's easy to do, and we all do it from time to time.

What's that, Joe? You want to know what the heck Murphy's Law is, exactly? OK, I'll give it a try: ...The Law's namesake was Capt. Ed Murphy, a development engineer from Wright Field Aircraft Lab working on a project at Edwards Air Force Base in Muroc, CA in 1949. Capt. Murphy was frustrated with a strap transducer which was malfunctioning due to an error in wiring of the strain gauge bridges. This caused Murphy to remark - "If there is any way to do it wrong, he will" - referring to the technician who had wired the bridges at the Lab. "Murphy's Law" was assigned to this statement and the associated variations of it. Note: This info is from a book written by Arthur Bloch in 1977 called, "Murphy's Law, and Other Reasons Why Things Go WRONG". So, Joe… there you go, I hope that answers your question.

Hey Joe, get this… a short while ago I was using my table saw and had a serious accident. No, I didn't cut myself… but the piece of wood I was cutting shot backwards towards my body and hit me in the stomach. I swore up a storm and blamed my old nemesis, Murphy. After all, a lot of folks say, "Murphy is gonna get you", and that day he did, it seemed.

After I calmed down I realized why the piece of wood shot out of the table saw… I was COMPLACENT. I remembered that I saw something out of the corner of my eye, became distracted, and then took my eye off of the wood going through the blade. That slight movement caused the wood to catch in the blade and shoot out at me. I was also complacent in having my body in the path of the blade.

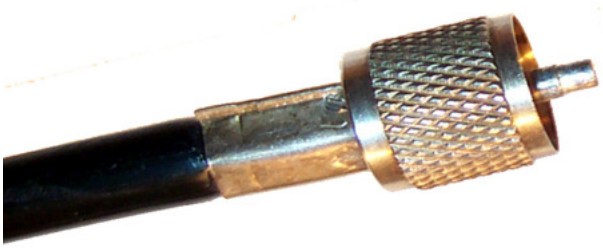
After having this epiphany about complacency... I sat back with my cup of coffee and reviewed the situation. More epiphanies came to mind. The big one is this equation: Murphy equals COMPLACENCY, or mathematically speaking: M=C. My Third Epiphany becomes Murphy's 3rd Law, which states: COMPLACENCY KILLS. Being complacent may result in your (or my) death or simply kill a good time.

Joe is stating that this is a Ham Radio newsletter and is wondering just how M=C or Murphy's Third law applies to Amateur Radio.

A couple of years ago I went backpacking with friends and family and took my QRP equipment to do some ham radio operations from the wilderness where cell phones and two meter repeaters don't work. My station consists of a FT-817, LDG antenna tuner, cables, and a 7 amp battery. After struggling up a long incline with an extra 11 pounds of radio equipment in my pack I set up my station. Yes, things went wrong: I had forgotten the coax cable that connects the antenna tuner to the radio. I also discovered that the battery that had been faithful to me for the last 5 years had low voltage and wouldn't power the radio… and on top of that a screw had come loose inside of the antenna tuner and my Swiss Army Knife was too crude to repair it. I was complacent and brought at least 9 pounds of equipment that didn't work.

One time I built a two meter J Pole antenna. This antenna had a long length of coax cable that was pushed through a small hole drilled through my shack wall before it was connected to the antenna located on the house sewer vent

stack. After the coax was in the shack and cut to the correct length… I proceeded to install the PL -259 coax connector. I was using the solder type connector and followed the cutting instructions in the handbook, as I have many times before. Using my 250 watt Weller, I soldered the connector, let it cool off, and plugged it into my IC 2100



two meter base station. I connected the coax to the antenna on the roof… Then I announced myself on the repeater, but I did not get the courtesy tone beep after I released the microphone PTT button. What is wrong? I continued to transmit to *kerchunk* the repeater with no receive beep. I called a friend on the phone and arranged a meet on the simplex calling frequency. We couldn't communicate. After more careful trouble shooting… I discovered that the coax connector I soldered had shorted out inside. This provided a dead short to the 50 watt two meter transmitter… which caused a $135 (parts and labor) PIN diode to fail according to the Icom repair tech in Bellevue.

So, Joe… in the backpacking equipment failure episode… I sure wish I would have noticed the purchase date on the battery I placed on it 5 years before. If I did… I would have bought a new one to take along. I also wish I would have tested the antenna tuner with the 817 before I put it in the pack. I surely would have noticed the missing cable and loose screw and could have taken appropriate action. I have a check list for other things in my backpack and now include a ham radio section on the list.

And that darn antenna that burnt up my Icom radio. (did it really?) I sure wish I would have checked for short circuits across the coax connector with my Volt Ohm Meter before I connected the coax to the J Pole and the radio. I would have found a very low resistance short circuit that didn't belong in the circuit. Ouch… that $135 is like a traffic citation to me now. I could have almost bought a new radio for the repair charge.

Joe wants to know why I am telling all of the Bark readers this… cuz he knows that I believe in people being responsible for themselves and their own actions which includes mistakes…

My thinking is: When I tell some acquaintances that I am a ham radio operator… some of them ask, "Do people still do that? I thought ham radio was dead because of cell phones and the internet". A lot of folks think that… but I tell them, "No ham radio is not dead and a lot of folks still participate". It gets me thinking that maybe ham radio is slowly dying… and I don't want that to happen because ham radio is an important hobby to me. And in order for ham radio to succeed then there needs to be more hams who are successful with the hobby instead of someone who sells their new radio because it doesn't work the first time and they cant talk to anyone.

So, Joe… my purpose is to create an awareness that Murphy's Law is an excuse for being complacent. I hope that all hams take the time and plan out their projects for the best success possible… even if it means reading a book, making a check list, or finding an experienced person to garner advice from.

The last words: Keep your mind on Task and Eyes on Task… cuz complacency can kill a good time.

Best Regards, Joe…. Dididdidahdahdahdahdahdahdah KR7W.

The Radio Club of Tacoma's

Logger's Bark

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Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:

JANUARY 2011 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays January 12th and 26th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday January 5th 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .